GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1549
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2006
PACKAGE FOR ORGANIC FARMING .
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government has chalked out/finalized any special package for organic farming in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) Whether the organic produces have good export potential due to demand in international market;

(d) if so, whether the Government provides any financial aid to encourage organic farming by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs);

(e) If so, the number of NGOs which have submitted their organic farming projects; and

(f) The details of sanctioned projects and the total amount involved?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a)&(b): A new central sector scheme `National Project on Organic Farming` (NPOF) has been taken up from October, 2004 with an outlay of Rs.57.05 crore for production, promotion and market development of organic farming in the country during 10th Plan, on pilot basis, with the following components:-

(i) Capacity building through service providers;

(ii) Setting up of organic input units of Fruit/vegetable waste compost, Bio-fertilizers and Vermi-culture hatcheries;

(iii) Training programmes for Certification & inspection agencies/service providers, Organic input production & quality control, Field functionaries/Extension Officers and Farmers` training;

(iv) Field demonstrations on Organic inputs including vermin-compost/city compost, use of enriched biogas slurry and setting up of model organic farms; and

(v) Market development and promotion.

Under the scheme, financial assistance is made available to the implementing agencies on the basis of their proposals, therefore, no State-wise allocation is made.

In addition, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched a network research programme at 13 centres of All India Coordinated Research Project on Cropping system Research with a financial allocation of Rs.2.83 crore during 10th Plan to standardize technology package for Organic Farming for important crops.

(c): Organic products have a good potential for export in the three main markets namely, European Union (EU), United States (US) and Japan. The present global market with the major shares of these countries is around US$ 31 billion.

(d) to (f): The Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are being involved in implementation of the NPOF for the activities indicated in reply to part (a) & (b) above.

A number of NGOs throughout the country submitted proposals under NPOF. However, based on their eligibility i.e. experience, infrastructure availability in the field of organic farming, funds amounting to Rs.74.24 lakh and Rs. 275.18 lakh were released during 2004-05 & 2005-06 respectively to various NGOs including State Agricultural Universities (SAUs) and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs).